

Yarrow; Old Man, & Pepper; Nosebleed.

(*Achillea Millefolium*)

Flower heads:- Grayish -white, rarely pinkish, in a hard, close, flat-topped compound cluster. Ray florets 4 to 6, pistillate, fertile; disk florets yellow, afterwards brown, perfect, fertile.

Stem:- Erect, from horizontal root-stalk, 1 to 2 ft. high, leafy,

sometimes hairy. Leaves:- Very finely dissected.

Preferred Habitat:- Waste land, dry fields, banks, roadsides, especially in meadows in dry rocky land.

Flowering Season :-- June -- November.

Every where in Pocahontas County this commonest of common weeds confronts us; the compact, dusty-looking clusters appearing not by waysides only, around the world, but in the mythology, folk-lore, medicine, and literature of many peoples. As a love charm; as an herb tea brewed by crones to cure divers ailments, from loss of hair to the ague; as an inducement to nosebleeding for the relief of conjunctive headache; as an ingredient of an especially intoxicating beer made by Swedes, it is mentioned in old books. Nowadays we are satisfied merely to admire the feathery masses of lace-like foliage formed by young plants, to whiff the wholesome, nutty, autumnal odor of its flowers, or to wonder at the marvelous scheme it employs to overrun the earth. This yarrow plant at one time was considered a pest to the farmers of Pocahontas County, and it was dug up in the meadows; and while the flower is very beautiful, it is one of the most worthless of all the Composite wild flowers of Pocahontas County. It was naturalized from Europe.

Dogs or Foetid Camomile: Mayweed; Pigs-sty Daisy ; Dillweed; Dog-fennel.

(Anthemis Cotula (Maruta Cotula)

Flower-heads :- Like small daisies, about 1 in. broad; 10 to 18 white notched neutral ray florets around a convex Or conical yellow disk , whose florets are fertile containing both stamens and pistil, tubular, 1 to 2 ft. high, leafy with unpleasant odor and acrid taste.

Leaves:- Very finely dissected into slender segments.

Preferred Habitat: Roadsides, dry waste land, sandy fields.

Flowering Season:- June -- November.

Dog, used as a prefix by several of the plants folk - names, implies contempt for its worthliness. It is an other species, the Garden-Camomile (*A. nobilis*), which furnishes the apothecary with those flowers which, when steeped into a bitter, aromatic tea, have been supposed for generations to make a superior tonic and blood purifier.

This Dog-fennel plant mostly in wet sour land, it is a beautiful flower but is a worthless plant.

Common Daisy; White weed; Oxeye- Daisy; Marguerita; Love-me; Love-me- Not.

(Chrysanthemum Leucanthemum)

Flower -heads- Disk- florets yellow, tubular, 4 or 5 toothed, containing stamens and pistil; surrounded by white ray florets, which are pistillate, fertile.

Stem:- Mostly oblong in outline, coarsely toothed and divided.

Preferred Habitat:- Meadows, Pastures, Roadsides, waste land, grows every where in the open, will not survive in the woods or in the shade of timber.

Flowering Season :- May - November.

Myriads and myriads of daisies, whiten many of the fields of Pocahontas County as if a blizzard had covered them with a snowy mantle in June and fills the farmers with dismay; while the flowers are filled with rapture as they behold their beauty.

At one time the farmers of Pocahontas County, thought that Oxeye Daisies was an awful pest and would ruin their land, and fields of meadows, but later it was conceded that when a field of Ox-eye Daisies were plowed under it was a good soil builder ;

The Ox-eye Daisy is said to be an naturalized immigrant from Europe.

It is among the most conspicuous of flowers.

Tansy; Bitter-buttons.

(*Tanacetum vulgare*)

Flower-heads- Small, round, of tubular florets only, packed within a depressed involucre, and born in flattopped corymbs.

stem:- $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 ft. tall, leafy.

Leaves: - Deeply and pinnately cleft in narrow, toothed divisions; strong scented.

Preferred Habitat:- Roadsides ; commonly escaped from gardens.

Flowering - Season:- July - September

Tansy tea, in short cured every ill that the ~~that~~ ~~hair~~ flesh is heir to, according to simple faith of many of the early settlers - and faith still surviving in many old women even to this day . In the early settlement it was believed that to soak Tansy leaves in buttermilk for nine days , and then applied, it would make the complexion very fair.

So great credence having been given to its medicinal powers in Europe it is not strange the colonists felt they could not live in the New World without Tansy. Strong-scented pungent tufts topped with bright yellow buttons-runaways from old gardens- are conspicuous feature along many a roadside leading to colonial homesteads. This Tansy plant is Naturalized from Europe.

NATURAL SETTING

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Pocahontas County owes its early development largely to its position on the boundary of Virginia. Pioneering explorers discovered its rich valleys on their first short trips beyond the Allegheny barrier. Later, it became an important gateway for settlers from the eastern communities who pushed into the free lands of the Ohio country. [The county, in its geographical placement and contour, is quite similar to West Virginia, itself. Trim the northern panhandle region from a map of state and the remainder will be surprisingly like a map of Pocahontas. Like the state, the county extends much farther north, south, east, and west than its size would indicate. From 37 degrees, 40 minutes north latitude at its southernmost point it stretches to 38 degrees 45 minutes north latitude. Similarly it reaches from 79 degrees, 35 minutes to 80 degrees, 24 minutes west longitude.

Its more than 900 square miles of land make Pocanontas the third county of the state in size. It was formed from parts of Bath, Pendleton, and Randolph counties and was originally thought to contain 620 square miles. Boundaries, as determined by the Virginia legislature in 1821, were as follows:

"Beginning at the line of Greenbrier County on top of the Allegheny Mountain Thence with the said line to the head of Spice Run, thence with the said line to the end of the Droop Mountain, thence with said line to Fryers Knob, thence with said line to where it intersects the line of Bath and Randolph, thence with the line dividing Randolph and Greenbrier Counties, to the mountain opposite the junction of the Hancock Shoal Run with Williams River, thence a straight line to the mouth of the dry fork of Elk River, Thence a straight line to the top of the mountain between the head of the Valley River, and the point



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last aforesaid, where the road leading from Clover Lick to Randolph courthouse, crosses said mountain, thence a straight line to where the line of Pendleton county intersects the line of Bath and Randolph Counties on top of the mountain between Cheat and Greenbrier Rivers, thence with the top of said mountain to where the road leading from Slavens to Randolph Court house crosses it, thence a straight line to the top of the Allegheny Mountain opposite the head of the east fork of the Greenbrier River, thence with the top of the said mountain to the Pendleton line, thence with the top of the said mountain to the beginning."

The straight line from the Slavens road to the mountain opposite the head of East Fork of Greenbrier caused much confusion. As county lines were then, a corridor was formed cutting off a part of Pendleton from the main body of the county. Also, a "no man's land" was created adjacent to Randolph. After considerable dispute the boundaries were moved to the present location. Pocahontas thus gained a vast area of rich timber land. Burner, May, Gertrude and Wildell are lumber towns which sprang up in this formerly disputed territory. About ten miles of the Western Maryland Railroad together with attending operations is in the area. A few years later the southern border was changed slightly, giving the county its present area of 602,680 acres. As in the case of most land where rough terrain is general, boundaries were determined largely by natural barriers, streams, and divisions of water shed. The unfamiliarity of many an early surveyor with the wild country in which he worked forced him to rely upon prominent landmarks for his bearings. However, since political and social groupings were also influenced greatly by topographical situation it appears logical that the system is far more just than the arbitrary laying-off of orderly rows of townships and counties.

CHAPTER THREE NATURAL SETTING (Pocahontas County)

Beginning August 26th 1940

Roscoe W. Brown.

Part 1.

Sec A. Pocahontas County is situated on the eastern side of the State somewhat below the center of West Virginia, is adjoining the State of Virginia in the east, the meanders of the Alleghany mountains, and the watershed thereof which is the line between Virginia and West Virginia, forms the eastern boundary line of Pocahontas County except the north end of the County which is bounded on the east by Pendleton County of West Virginia.

Pocahontas County is bounded on the north and north-west by Webster and Randolph Counties, on the north-east by Pendleton County, on the east by Highland and Bath Counties of the State of Virginia, and on the south-west by Greenbrier County.

The Geographical position of Pocahontas County, or as it is oriented in the State of West Virginia, in reference to its position of Latitude and Longitudinal departure; at the High-School Building at Greenbank taken as a point as near as can be defined, is 38 degrees, 25 minutes, and 33 seconds of North Latitude, and 79 degrees, 49 minutes, and 30 seconds of Longitude from Greenwich.

The Geographical ^{Position} of Marlinton (the County seat of Pocahontas County) is approximately as taken from the Topographical Maps made by U.S. Engineers for the Geological Surveys, is 38 degrees and 13 minutes of North Latitude, and 80 degrees and 6 minutes of Longitude.

In reference to the Magnetic declination, or the ^edelination of the magnetic compass needle, from the true North Meridian appears to be 4 degrees and 30 minutes of West Declination, with an annual change of 3 minutes per year.

(All the U.S. Government surveys are based on the True North Meridian, all the local and private lands are surveyed by the Magnetic Meridian.)

The County is irregular in outline , and has no definite form , Its greatest maximum length is nearly 60 miles running in a northeast-southwest direction and its greatest width in a northwest and southeast direction is approximately 29 miles narrowing to about 12miles toward the northern end.

The present area of Pocahontas County, as determined with planimeter from the topographic sheets of the United State Geological Survey as follows:

Greenbank District ----- 319.24 Square Miles.

Huntersville District----- 193.64 Square Miles.

Edray District----- 237.05 Square Miles.

Little Levels District--- 192.68 Square Miles.

Total----- 942.61 Square Miles . or about 602.880^{acres} more or less

Pocahontas County was formed by an act of the Virginia Legislature in December 1821, while West Virginia was a part of the State of Virginia.

It was formed from part of Bath, Pendleton , and Randolph Counties , and that time was supposed to contain 820 square miles.

The boundry lines of Pocahontas County as originally established by the Virginia Legislature in December 1821 are as follows .

Beginning at the line of Greenbrier County on top of the Allegheny Mountain thence with the said line to the head of Spice Run, thence with the said line to the end of the Droop Mountain, thence with said line to Fryers Knob, thence with said line to where it intersects the line of Bath and Randolph, thence with the line dividing Randolph and Greenbrier Counties , to the mountain opposite ^{the junction of the} Bannock Shoal Run with Williams River, thence a straight line to the mouth of the dry fork of Elk River, Thence a straight line to the top of the mountain between the head of the Valley River, and the point last aforesaid, where the road leading from Clover Lick to Randolph courthouse, crosses said mountain , thence a straight line to where the line of Pendleton County intersects the line of Bath and Randolph Counties on top of the mountain

-between Cheat and Greenbrier Rivers, thence with the top of said mountain to where the road leading from Slaven's to Raddolph Court house crosses it, thence a staight line to the top of the Alleghany Mountain opposite the head of the east fork of the Greenbrier River, thence with the top of the said mountain to the Pendleton line, thence with the top of the said mountain to the beginning.

) See" Dyers Index of the land grants of West Virginia for the above calls)

It appears that the establishment of the straight line from the point in the road leading from Slaven,s to the Randolph County Court house to the top of the Alleghany Mountain opposite the head of the East Fork of the Greenbrier River in later years, led to much misunderstanding, and controversy between the Counties Pocahontas and Randolph. . Randolph County was formed ^{from Harrison County} by an Act of the Virginia Assembly in October 1786, and did,nt include the head waters of the West Fork of the Greenbrier River; and it appeared that the said line would ~~would~~ cut a part of Pendleton in two parts not joining. Pendleton County line as established by the Virginia Assembly in December 1787, only called for the top of the Alleghany and along the same, and the east side of the Greenbrier waters to the south-west fountain of the South Branch, this point was the corner of Augusta County at that time and later formed the setting of the Bath County line as formed from Augusta County in 1791

After the formation of Pocahontas County in 1821, the greater portion of the area drained by the waters of the West Fork of the Greenbrier River was not completely included in the County lines above mentioned and therefore appeared to be "No Mans Land" and was all due to the fact that the original calls show a misunderstanding on the part of the draftsman of the bill, as to the topographical situation of the country.

It was agreed to and understood by the Officials of Pocahontas and Randolph Counties that a definite line must be established between the two Counties at this particular point of controverey.

The service of B.M.Yeager a qualified land surveyor was secured to survey and establish a line as directed by a board of commissioners; The survey notes of B.M.Yeager bearing date of May 22nd 1876 purports the fact that he began at the top of Back Alleghany , on Shavers Mountain , where the Staunton and Parkersburg Turnpike road crosses the top of said Mountain ; (This point had been the most northern point or corner of Pocahontas County for a period of 55 years). thence with the top of said mountain on the divide between the waters of the Greenbrier River , and the waters of the Shavers Fork of Cheat River , and following the water shed of the Greenbrier waters to a point on the top of the Alleghany Mountain on the Pendleⁿ County line .

The said surveyor gives the whole distance	8415 poles---	\$42.07½
Reversed -----	7276 poles	\$ 36.38
Number of courses-----	146 -----	4.56

The whole distance of the new line between Randolph and Pocahontas County is about 27 miles. (The bearings and distanc,s of the courses are omitted at this place)

The following is the Commissioners report of the line , and the same is a matter of record in the County Clerks Office of Pocahontas County West Va. In Deed Book No 15 at Page 188

We Sherman H. Clark , William G. Overholt, and John C. Price Commissioners on the part of Pocahontas County and,

B.W.Crawford, Nicholas Marsteller , and S.D. Strader Commissioners , on behalf of Randolph County , and B. W. Byrne who was dully chose Umpire by said Commissioners, who were appointed according to law, to ascertain and fix that part of the County line between the said Counties about which there has been a controversy between said Counties . Met in the vicinity of said disputed line on the 17th day of August 1880 . and first dully sworn ; on hearing evidence and arguamt of counsil. The said Sherman H. Clark, William O. Overholt and JoC. Price , and B.W.Byrne , a majority of said board of Commissioners, ascertain and fix the line in controversy as follows, as shown in the plat accompanying this report

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- to wit beginning on the top of Back Alleghany , on Shavers Mountain , where the Staunton and Parkersburg Turnpike road crosses the top of said Mountain and running thence with the top of said Mountain on the divide, between the waters of Greenbrier River and the waters of Shavers Fork of Cheat River as follows .
(the first call of the line) S. 33 E. 58 poles . ----- (The bearings and distances of the courses of the line are omitted at this place , but can furnish them if necessary ,) (The last call or line) N. 37 E. 70 poles to a Hemlock , Cherry and 2 Beeches on the top of Alleghany Mountain . where the said dividing ridge intersects the said Alleghany Mountain.

The Commissioners on the part of Randolph County dissenting .

Commissioners on the part of Pocahontas County . S.H. Clark.

Wm Overholt

John C. Price

B. W. Byrne. Umpire.

Pocahontas County Clerks Office .

August 24th 1882

The foregoing plat and report of the County line between the Pocahontas and - Randolph Counties was presented in this Office and admitted to record .

TEST JOHN J. BEARD CLERK.